

Letter of Appeal on Behalf of XiYue Wang Imprisoned Graduate Student in Iran

Endangered Scholars Worldwide is compelled to express its outrage at the arrest and conviction of XiYue Wang, a 37-year-old United States citizen of Chinese descent, who has been detained since August 2016 by the Islamic Republic of Iran on accusation of “archiving thousands of Iranian documents and having connections to American intelligence agencies.” He was sentenced to 10 years in prison while researching Iran's Qajar dynasty for his Princeton University PhD. In the past two years, his wife, Qu Hua has repeatedly stated that her husband has attempted suicide during his time in prison.

XiYue Wang, a US citizen and doctoral student in Princeton's history department, was visiting Iran in 2016 to attend a Farsi language program and perform research for his dissertation. Since August 7, 2016, Wang has been held in Evin prison in Tehran. According to multiple sources, Wang has been mistreated and his health is deteriorating.

On August 29, 2018, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention determined that the government of Iran had “no legal basis for the arrest and detention” of XiYue Wang, and that he should be released “immediately.”

We at Endangered Scholars Worldwide consider XiYue Wang's detention a flagrant and unjust violation of the freedom, security, and safety of a student who has been caught up in the political tension between the US and Iran—arrested without cause, held for weeks in solitary confinement and without access to a lawyer, and subjected to physical mistreatment and psychological abuse.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide strongly deplores and condemns the ongoing detention, persecution, and conviction of XiYue Wang, and calls upon all international organizations, academic and professional associations, and other groups and individuals devoted to the promotion and defense of human rights to strongly protest and condemn this arbitrary incarceration, to call for his immediate and unconditional release, and to urge the officials of the Iranian government to respect, guarantee, and implement the provisions and principles of human rights as specified in international conventions and treaties in accordance with Iran's obligations under international law.

CC:

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

The Office of the Supreme Leader

Jomhuri Street

Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran

Fax: +98 21 644 11

Website: <http://www.leader.ir/langs/en/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/www.Khamenei.ir>

Ayatollah Sadeqh Larijani

Howzeh Riyasat-e Qoveh Qazaiyeh (Office of the Head of the Judiciary)

Pasteur St., Vali Asr Ave., south of Serah-e Jomhuri

Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran

(continues)

[Endangered Scholars Worldwide](#), founded in 2007 on the conviction that academic freedom and freedom of inquiry are fundamental human rights, is dedicated to raising public awareness and support for academics, researchers, and students around the world who have been threatened, silenced, or imprisoned for doing their scholarly work or speaking out against injustice. We provide referrals and conduct public education and advocacy programs to draw attention to crises of higher education worldwide. An initiative of [Social Research: An International Quarterly](#) at the [New School for Social Research](#), Endangered Scholars Worldwide has its roots in [the University in Exile](#) at [The New School](#).

Please visit us at <http://www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net/>

Like us at <https://www.facebook.com/endangeredscholars>

President Hassan Rouhani
The Office of the President
Palestine Avenue, Azerbaijan Intersection
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Javad Zarif
Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Minister's Office
Imam Khomeini Square
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran
Fax: +98 21 66743149
Website: <http://www.mfa.gov.ir>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jzarif>

Michael Pompeo
United States Secretary of State
Office of Foreign Missions
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520, USA
Email: OFMInfo@state.gov

Nikki Haley
U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Nations
U.S. Permanent Mission to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017, USA

Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Email: InfoDesk@ohchr.org

Dr. Koumbou Boly Barry
United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Email: sreducation@ohchr.org

David Kaye
United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Fax: +41 22 917 9006
Email: freedex@ohchr.org

Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Thorbjørn Jagland
Secretary General of the Council of Europe Council of Europe
Avenue de l'Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France
Fax: + 33 3 88 41 27 99

Philippe Boillat
Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law
Council of Europe
Avenue de l'Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France
Fax: + 33 3 88 41 27 99